



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**DLNR CLOSES PU‘U ANAHULU GAME MANAGEMENT AREA
DUE TO WILDFIRE**

WAIMEA – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) announces the closure of the state Pu‘u Anahulu Game Management Area to the public for safety reasons today through Monday, March 24. Staff will assess fire conditions on Monday and determine if further closure is needed.

The closure is due to a large wildland fire that has burned 600 acres of state land so far, centered about four miles southeast of Waikoloa Village, and mauka of the Mamalahoa Highway. No homes are threatened, no evacuations were needed.

The fire has been traveling through fountain grass over uneven inaccessible terrain within the Keamuku lava flow. No threatened and endangered plants are affected at this time. The fire is burning in the Pu‘u Anahulu Game Management area, threatening game habitat. Lightning is considered the cause of the fire.

“Yesterday afternoon helicopter water drops were made and last night bulldozers successfully constructed fire control lines. As of this morning the fire is 80 percent contained,” said Paul Conry, Division of Forestry and Wildlife administrator. “Water drops and control line work continued today with support from ground personnel, and crews are “mopping up” by extinguishing burning areas.”

A total of 45 fire fighting personnel from DLNR, Hawai‘i County Fire Department, Army Pohakuloa Training Area, County Public Works and private resources have been on the fire since yesterday, assisted by four engines, nine water tenders and two bulldozers and one helicopter.

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